

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 049231

64

ORIGIN NEA-04

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /005 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ ARN: DCCOCHRAN: BDF

3/16/73 EXT 20791

APPROVED BY NEA/ ARN: DAKORN

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R 162216 Z MAR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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FOLLOWING TEL SENT SECSTATE FROM BAGHDAD 27 OCTOBER  
REPEATED QUOTE BAGHDAD 35

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINS, CASC, IZ

SUBJ: TRAVEL TO IRAQ

REF: STATE 175947

1. AFTER DISCUSSING MATTER OF TRAVEL WITHIN IRAQ WITH  
WESTERN DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES AND OTHERS, USINT BELIEVES  
THAT TRAVEL BY AMERICAN TOURISTS AND BUSINESSMEN SHOULD  
NOT BE DISCOURAGED EXCEPT IN TIMES OF REAL CRISES. GOI IS  
GRADUALLY TAKING STEPS TO ENCOURAGE TOURISM ( E. G. TOURIST  
AGENCY MANAGER HERE TOLD CONSULAR OFFICER THAT TOURIST  
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PAGE 02 STATE 049231

VISAS MAY HENCEFORTH BE ISSUED AT AIRPORT AND THAT TOURISTS POSSESSING PASSPORTS WITH ISRAELI VISAS WILL BE ADMITTED.) WE STILL ADVISE AGAINST HAVING ISRAELI VISA FOR TIME BEING. ONLY FEW INCIDENTS HAVE OCCURRED IN PAST TWO YEARS INVOLVING ARBITRARY ACTIONS AGAINST FOREIGN VISITORS. EVEN IN THOSE CASES THERE WAS SOME FAULT ON BOTH SIDES. EXISTENCE OF USINT SHOULD AFFORD SOME PROTECTION SHOULD TRAVELERS EXPERIENCE DIFFICULTY. WE CAN COUNT ON STRONG SUPPORT OF BELGIAN AMBASSADOR IF REQUIRED.

2. WE DO NOT BELIEVE, HOWEVER, DEPT SHOULD ACTIVELY ENCOURAGE TRAVEL. THERE ARE STILL BUREAUCRATIC AND SECURITY PRACTICES THAT COULD IN SOME INSTANCES CAUSE DIFFICULTIES, PARTICULARLY FOR AMERICANS.

3. TRAVEL BY USG OFFICIALS IS SPECIAL CATEGORY. IF USG OFFICIALS AND DEPENDENTS WISH TO VISIT IRAQ FOR PRIVATE VISIT AND ARE ABLE TO OBTAIN VISAS FROM LOCAL IRAQI EMBASSY, THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM. USINT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ASSIST IN OBTAINING VISAS FOR SUCH PRIVATE TRAVEL AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING. RE TRAVEL ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS, GOI HAS SEEMED SUSPICIOUS OF THE TWO OFFICIAL VISITORS FOR WHOM WE REGISTERED VISAS. IN BOTH INSTANCES, ISSUANCE WAS DELAYED OVER TEN DAYS AND SEVERAL QUERIES MADE ABOUT OFFICIAL'S FUNCTION AND PURPOSE OF VISIT. I GAVE ONLY GENERAL REPLIES. REQUEST THEREFORE THAT OFFICIAL TRAVEL BE HELD TO MINIMUM FOR TIME BEING. UNQUOTE. ROGERS

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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**TAGS:** CASC, PINS, IZ  
**To:** AMMAN  
ANKARA  
ATHENS  
ISTANBUL  
JIDDA  
KUWAIT  
MULTIPLE

PARIS  
ROME  
TEHRAN  
TEL AVIV

**Type:** TE

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